Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

-----106935 150548Z /13

R 141814Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3836

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N.A. TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: ETUC-SPONSORED APRIL 5 "WORKER ACTION DAY"

REF: BRUSSELS 02615 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1. UNDERSTAND FROM BASQUE STV SOURCE (INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY ALEX AGUIRREZABAL) THAT ETUC (EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION) GENERAL SECRETARY MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED WILL VISIT MADRID MARCH 17 FOR PURPOSE PROMOTING APRIL 5 "WORKER ACTION DAY". HE WILL HOLD JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE HERE WITH SOCIALIST UGT AND

BASQUE STV (ETUC'S TWO MEMBER UNIONS IN SPAIN).

- 2. WHILE STV INTENDS SUPPORT "WORKER ACTION DAY" BY HOLDING APPROPRIATE MEETINGS ON APRIL 5 IN BASQUE REGION, THEY ARE NOT INCLINED TO CALL FOR ANY WORK STOPPAGES -- EVEN FOR ONE HOUR (SEE BELOW) -- IN VIEW DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION. ACCORDING TO STV, ONE-HOUR WORK STOPPAGES CAN EASILY GET OUT OF HAND (ESPECIALLY IN VOLATILE BASQUE COUNTRY) AND BE PROLONGED TO ONE-DAY, AND "NEITHER SPAIN NOR SPANISH WORKERS CAN AFFORD SUCH A LOSS AT THIS TIME."
- 3. UGT FEDERAL COMMITTEE MEETING OVER MARCH 11-12 WEEKEND, SUPPORTED APRIL 5 EVENT, AND ANNOUNCED THAT TYPE OF DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD BE DECIDED JOINTLY WITH THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (CC.OO.). BOTH CC.OO. AND THE INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST USO (NEITHER MEMBERS OF ETUC) HAVE DECIDED TO BACK THE ETUC'S EUROPE-WIDE INITIATIVE. UGT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY MANUEL SIMON TOLD LABATT THAT HIS UNIN VISUALIZED A MASS JOINT TRADE UNION RALLY IN MADRID AND ONE-HOUR WORK STOPPAGES THROUGHOUT THE NATION, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE LEFT UP TO THE VARIOUS UGT PROVINCIAL FEDERATIONS WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES THEY WISHED TO SPONSOR.
- 4. THE SO-CALLED "UNITARY" MAOIST UNIONS SU AND CSUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE SPONSORING A MASS "MARCH OF THE UNEMPLOYED" (FROM "ALL OVER SPAIN") IN MADRID ON MARCH 19, AND THE CIVIL GOVERNOR OF MADRID HAS AUTHORIZED THE USE OF THE PALACIO DE LOS DEPORTES FOR THE EVENT. STABLER

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